**Telephone Connections by Basic Services Operators**

2606. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some basic services operators are not providing telephone connections to residential customers as per demand and are catering only to preferred customers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken against such private operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR ) : (a) and (b) It was brought to the notice of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) that some of the Basic Telephone Service Operators are not providing telephone connections to residential customers as per demand and are catering only to preferred customer. TRAI carried out an investigation in the matter covering entire registration process of the private Basic Telephone Service Operators and found that some of the columns in the application forms for registration of telephone connection of some of the operators were such as to have the effect of discouraging potential residential subscribers from applying for a telephone without being discriminated. TRAI has taken steps to have these application forms modified and has issued a directive under Section 11(1) (b) and Section 13 of the TRAI Act.

**Opening of International Telephone Business**

2607. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact the Government's decision to open the international telephone business to unlimited competitors from April 1, 2002 has lowered the value of VSNL jeopardizing its disinvestment proposal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?